20 Years of Franco-South African Cooperation in Archaeology

Symposiums

12-16 OCTOBER 2015

Programme

20 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2015

Venue: University of Pretoria: Sanlam Auditorium

08.00 - 08.30: *Registration*

08.30 - 10.20: **Welcoming and Opening**

Chair: Francis Thackeray (Wits), José Braga (Univ. of Toulouse) & Lorna Holtman (UWC)

Prof. Stephanie Burton, Vice-Principal: Research and Postgraduate Studies, UP
Prof. Eric Buch, Dean: Faculty of Health Science, UP
Ms Anne Grillo, DGM MAEDI
Mr Daan du Toit, DST
Prof. José Braga, AESOP
Dr Romilla Maharaj, NRF
Dr Motodi Maserumule, Necsa
Prof. Dominique Garcia, INRAP
H.E. Elisabeth Barbier, French Embassador

10.20-10.45 *Break*

10.45 - 13.00: **MAEDI excavations in Southern Africa**

Chair: Karim Sadr (Wits)

Early origins

- J. Braga (Univ. of Toulouse): *Kromdraai, a birthplace of Paranthropus in the Cradle of Humankind*
- D. Gommery (CNRS): *Bolt's Farm Cave System, a potential Rosetta stone for human evolution*
- L. Bruxelles (INRAP): *Looking for a new part of the cradle of "Humankind: The Human Origins in Namibia*" program

Last ancestors

- P-J. Texier (CNRS): *1998-2013: Diepkloof and its contribution to the history of Late Pleistocene modern humans*
- G. Porraz (CNRS/IFAS): *Bushman (Limpopo, South Africa): sitting east, looking north*
- D. Pleurdeau (MNHN Paris): *Mission Archéologique en NAMibie (MANAM): Settlement dynamics in Erongo Region during Holocene*

13.00 - 14.30 *Lunch*

14.30 - 17.00: **Panel of South-African and French collaborations**

- B. Rubidge (Director ESI)
- S. Mavuso (Wits), D. Stratford (Wits), R. Maire (Univ. of Bordeaux), L. Bruxelles (INRAP): *The deposits of Jacovec Cavern, Sterkfontein: A high resolution application of sedimentological analyses for palaeanthropological studies.*
- C. Verna (CNRS), S. Prat (CNRS), F. Thackeray (Wits), T. Jashashvili (Wits/Georgian National Museum), J. Parkington (UCT): *Pleistocene hominins. Past, present and future Franco-South African cooperation for key periods of hominin evolution*
- K. Douze (Wits), A. Delagnes (CNRS), S. Wurz (Wits), C.S. Henshilwood (Wits/Univ. of Bergen): *Tracking the dynamics of Middle Stone Age cultural changes in the southern coast records of Blombos Cave and Klipdrift Shelter*
- A. Val (Wits), L. Wadley (Wits): *Bird/human interactions in the southern African Middle Stone Age: new data from Sibudu Cave, KwaZulu-Natal*.
- M. Wojcieszak (Wits), T. Hodgskiss (Wits), L. Wadley (Wits): *Finding chemical and physical evidences about heating treatment of the Middle Stone Age ochre from Rose Cottage and Sibudu*.
- L. Dayet (IFAS), R. Erasmus (Wits), A. Val (Wits), G. Porraz (CNRS/IFAS): *Ochre residues on beads at Bushman Rock Shelter, South Africa: ornamental traditions in the early Holocene*
- C. Sievers (Wits), S. Naidu (Wits), A. Val (Wits), G. Porraz (CNRS/IFAS): *Fruits and seeds, mainly marula, at Bushman Rock Shelter*
- A. Novello (Wits), M. Bamford (Wits), Y. van Wijik (Rhodes Univ.), P. Bande (Wits), S. Wurz (Wits): *Phytolith investigation at Klasies River: new approaches and first results*.
- P. Colomban (CNRS), L. Prinsloo (UP), A. Tournie (CNRS), F. Koleini (UP), W. Biemond (UNISA), J.C.A. Boeyens (UNISA), M.M. van der Ryst (UNISA): *Non-destructive identification of trade beads characteristics and origin*
- D. Pearce (Wits) et al.: *Researching rock art: South African and French collaborations*

18.30: **Reception at the French Residence**
(on invitation)

HISTORY OF ARCHAEOLOGY in SOUTH AFRICA

TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2015

Venue: Wits University: Humanities Graduate Centre, South West Engineering Building (tbc)
Organisers : Adrien Delmas (IFAS) & Paloma de la Peña (Wits)

08.30 - 09.00: **Welcoming**

09.00 - 09.30: **Introduction: Paloma de la Peña (Wits) & Adrien Delmas (IFAS)**

09.30 - 10.15: **Keynote lecture:** J. Deacon: *The multiplier effect of familiar facts and fallacious assumptions in the history of Later Stone Age research*

10.15 - 11.15: **The Presence of the past**

- N. Ndlovu (UP): *The unfulfilled dream: the failure of the Transformation Charter in archaeology*
- E. Worby (Wits): *A Star is Born: Homo naledi and the History of Paleoanthropological Performance*

11.15 - 11.30: *Break*

11.30- 12.30: **The invention of periods 1**

- A. Esterhuysen (Wits): *Our Time is not your Time: the chronopolitics of archaeological impact assessments*
- K. Sadr (Wits): *The origin of herding in southern Africa and the 'neolithic' concept*

12.30 - 13.30: *Lunch*

13.30 - 14.30: **The invention of periods 2**

- P. Bonner (Wits): *The invention of the Iron age: Swazi oral tradition and Northern Nguni historical archaeology*
- D. Pearce (Wits): *"Really marvelous it is": changing concepts in the study of southern Cape human burials*

14.30 - 16.00 **History and archaeology : demarcation lines**

- N. Schlanger (École des Chartes): *Labour in the history of archaeology: from Europe to the world*
- J. Wright (Wits): *Thinking towards a deep history of southern Africa in 2015*
- S. Dubow (Univ. of London): *The Dangerous Allure of the Archaeological Past*

16.00 - 16.15: *Break*

16.15 – 17.00: **Keynote lecture:** A. Schnapp (Univ. Paris 1): *Archaeology and the immaterial: how do societies without monuments manage their past?*

17.00 - 17.30 **Concluding remarks**

10.30 *(parallel visit)* **Visit of the Cradle of Humankind**
RSVP: Camille | comm.research@ifas.org.za | 011 403 0451

ROCK ART

Past experiences and new perspectives in rock art studies

WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2015

Venue: Wits University: Origins Centre Lecture Theatre
Organisers: Laure Dayet (IFAS), Sam Challis (Wits) & Stéphane Hoerlé (Wits)

08.30 - 08.40: **Welcoming**

08.40 - 09.00 **Keynote lecture:** D. Lewis-Williams (Wits): *From Leroi-Gourhan to Clottes: experiences of a Franco-South African narrative*

09.00 - 10.20: **An overview of past and present rock art studies**

- N. Schlanger (École des Chartes): *The hand that holds the tracing paper …. Henri Breuil and the making of rock art in historical perspective*
- B. Smith (Univ. of Western Australia): *Post 1994 Franco-South African rock art research collaborations and future collaboration potential*
- G. Blundell (Origins Museum): *The "white lady" myths*

10.20 - 10.40: *Break*

10.40 - 12.30: **Dealing with rock art interpretation and context**

- D. Lewis-Williams (Wits): *Interpreting recurring features in myth and rock art*
- F. Bon (Univ. of Toulouse): The *''battle-scene'' of ''Christol Cave'': story of a picture and its interpretations*
- C. Namono (Wits): *Rock art from Uganda: contextual interpretations*
- C. Bourdier (Univ. of Toulouse): Crossing backgrounds and looks: the contextual approach of rock art
- A. Nhamo (Univ. of Zimbabwe): *Cultural variation and rock art motifs: A revisit to the rock art of Chivi District, Masvingo Zimbabwe*

12.30 - 14.00: *Lunch*

14.00 - 15.40: **Using pigment, making paintings**

- D. Pearce (Wits): *Establishing a chronology in South African rock art using paint characterization and radiocarbon dating*
- S. Hoerlé (Wits): *Showing what is invisible: chemical imaging in Rock Art Studies*
- R. Rifkin (Wits): *More than merely pigment: Analytical and experimental perspectives on the evolutionary significance of prehistoric pigment exploitation.*
- S. Wurz (Wits): *Ochre use and behavioural complexity in the Howiesons Poort layers from cave 1A, Klasies river main site, South Africa*
- T. Hodgskiss (Wits): *Revisiting the Rose Cottage Cave ochre*

15.40 - 16.00: *Break*

16.00 - 17.45: **What about the future?**

- C. Hahndiek (UCT): *Quantifying Ochre and Rock Art in the Cederberg Mountains of the Western Cape. (South Africa)*
- G. Laue (Wits): *Exploring regionality: using the idea of 'chaîne opératoire' as an approach to 'style' in rock art*
- Discussion

18.30 **Documentary screening & cocktail**
La couleur des Ovahimba, by F. D'Errico and R Rifkin **- Venue:** IFAS

LITHIC TECHNOLOGY

Overview and prospectives

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2015

Venue: Wits University: Kate Druce Lecture Hall, Paleosciences building
Organisers : Guillaume Porraz (CNRS/IFAS) & Sarah Wurz (Wits)

08.30 - 09.00: **Welcoming**

09.00 - 10.30: **From Middle to Late Pleistocene technologies**

- K. Kuman (Wits): *From Uniface to biface: shaping of handaxes in the Acheulean*
- M. Caruana (Wits), A.I.R. Herries (La Trobe Univ.): *The Acheulean occupation at Amanzi Springs: 50 years after H.J. Deacon*
- K. Douze (Wits), S. Wurz (Wits), C.S. Henshilwood (Wits/Univ. of Bergen): *Techno-cultural characterization of the MIS 5 pre-Still Bay industries at Blombos Cave (Southern Cape)**
- S. Wurz (Wits): *A 100 000 year old quartzite assemblage from the Witness Baulk, Cave 1, Klasies River**

10.30 - 11.00: *Break*

11.00 - 12.30: **Late Pleistocene technologies**

- P-J. Texier (CNRS), M. Igreja (Univ. of Porto), G. Porraz (CNRS/IFAS): *The Bifacial Still Bay pieces from the West Coast of South Africa*.
- G. Porraz (CNRS/IFAS), K. Douze (Wits), M. Igreja (Univ. of Porto), P. de la Peña (Wits), A. Val (Wits): *The Pietersburg lithic technologies: a preliminary insight from Bushman Rock Shelter (Limpopo)**
- A. Delagnes (CNRS), K. Douze (Wits), S. Wurz (Wits), P. Shmidt (Univ. of Tübingen), K. van Niekerk (Wits/Univ. of Bergen), C.E. Hensilwood (Wits/Univ. of Bergen): *Heating silcrete: innovation, invention or simple opportunistic behavior for the MSA groups?*

12.30 - 14.00: *Lunch*

14.00 - 15.30: **From Late Pleistocene to Holocene technologies**

- P. de la Peña (Wits), L. Wadley (Wits): *What is Howiesons Poort? A technological response from the evidence from Grey Rocky layer in Sibudu Cave (KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa)*
- M. Redondo (Wits): *The Robberg of Rose Cottage Cave (Free State): new data on the lithic industries**
- I. Guillemard (Univ. Paris-Ouest), G. Porraz (CNRS/IFAS), K. Sadr (Wits): *2000 years ago in South Africa: a case study of Later Stone Age scrapers from Balerno Main Shelter, Limpopo**

15.30 - 16.00: *Break*

16.00 - 17.30: **Holocene technologies**

- D. Witelson (Wits), K. Sadr (Wits): *A preliminary description of the lithic technology at Holkrans Rock Shelter, Vredefort Dome, South Africa**
- I. Smeyatsky (Wits), K. Sadr (Wits), P. Randolph-Quinney (Wits): *Discerning and explaining shape variations in Later Stone Age tanged arrowheads, South Africa*.
- F. Bon (Univ. of Toulouse): *Khoisan lithic technology at the onset of History*.
- General discussion

** Talk followed by the viewing and discussion of lithic collections.*

ON THE NATURE OF CONNECTIONS

The relationships between the east African coast and the continental hinterland from the 11th to the 17th century

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2015

Venue: Wits University: Origins Centre (tbc)
Organisers: Adrien Delmas (IFAS) & Peter Delius (Wits)

08.30 - 09.00: **Welcoming**

09.00 - 09.30: **Introduction: Adrien Delmas (IFAS) & Peter Delius (Wits)**

09.30 - 10.30: **Oceans of Trade**

- P. Beaujard (CNRS): *The East and Southeast African coast and the transoceanic trade networks (10th-15th centuries a.d.)*
- P. Harries (UCT): *Atlantic contacts: Europeans on the south east African coast*

10.30 - 10.45: *Break*

10.45 - 11.45: **East Africa**

- T. Vernet (Univ. Paris-Sorbonne): *Long-distance connections between the Swahili Coast and its interior ca.1550-1800. A review of the evidence*
- T. Biginagwa (Univ. of Dar Es Salaam): *Coast -Interior connectivity during the 19th century: Archaeological evidence from north and southern Tanzania*

11.45 - 12.45: **Southern Africa**

- C. Ashley (UP), A. Antonites (UP): *Downstream from Mapungubwe: exploring 12-13th century settlements along the Limpopo Valley*
- S. Macamo (Mondlane Univ.): *The establishment of a management system for the archaeological sites of Chibuene and Manyikeni, Inhambane province, Mozambique*

12.45 - 14.00: *Lunch*

14.00 - 15.30: **On the nature of connections**

- P. Colomban (CNRS): Towards refining the identification and origin of trade beads
- C. Bourdier (Univ. of Toulouse): *Connecting images, connecting what and who? Epistemologic concerns on the socio-cultural interpretations of the techno-stylistic analysis of rock art*
- G. Chouin (College William and Mary): *Pandemics as connections: Africa and the plague before 1899*

15.30 - 15.45: *Break*

15.45 - 17.15: **Prospection and ways forward: Adrien Delmas (IFAS) & Peter Delius (Wits)**

History of Archaeology in South Africa

Tuesday 13 October 2015

On the occasion of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Franco-South African cooperation in Archaeology, IFAS and the Evolutionary Studies Institute are organizing a round table on the history of Archaeology and Palaeoanthropology in South Africa. Following the transition to democracy in 1994, sciences and humanities have experienced significant transformations, and the Palaeosciences are no exception. These transformations influenced university curricula, the place of archaeology in political debate and public imagination, but also the very core of knowledge production. Still, this social and epistemic inscription of Archaeology in South Africa has a much longer history. Institutionalized Palaeoscientific research can be traced back to the first half of the twentieth century at least. Even before that, a variety of practices and discourses in the nineteenth century or even the eighteenth century directly recall archaeological and palaeontological activity in South Africa. We find here one of the longer traditions on Prehistory, Archaeology and Palaeoanthropology in the world. As such, we propose to provide an historical approach to the Palaeosciences.

Rock Art

Past experiences and new perspectives in rock art studies

Wednesday 14 October 2015

Current rock art studies have inherited a long tradition of research in both South Africa and France. Since the early pioneer investigation of Henri Breuil in collaboration with Clarence van Riet Lowe, these traditions have mutually influenced crossed each other several times. Breuil's journeys from 1929 to 1951 in southern Africa led him to visit hundreds of decorated rock shelters and he was keen to think that some common features existed in rock art representations from South Africa, north Africa and Europe. In the 1990s, the fruitful collaboration between David Lewis-Wiliams and Jean Clottes reintroduced the hypothesis that rock art in France and South Africa share a common background by proposing that Paleolithic paintings may have been motivated by shamanistic practices as it was previously argued for San paintings. Other hypotheses base on more local issues and heuristic approaches have been developed in the following decades, enlarging the focus of rock art studies toe technical, social and environmental components of hunter-gatherers' way of life. In the 2000s, with the improvement of in situ chemical analyses of the pigments from paintings, new collaborations between French and South African teams emerged. They were part of a broader renewal of rock art studies which engaged in new methodological paths, aiming to better characterise the material culture and the archeological context in which the representations were made. What is the situation today? What perspectives are currently explored? What to think of the uniqueness of the paintings from each region, each site and sometimes each panel? Are historical and local models more legitimate than universal and transversal ones? How can new field data, collected with new methods, be integrated in previous interpretative models and renew them? These are some of the question that arise for future research on rock art in both hemispheres and will be addresses in this workshop.

Lithic Technology

Overview and prospectives

Thursday 15 October 2015

The symposium aims at reviewing current lithic studies on the South African Stone Age, in terms of analytical frameworks and of research questions. Lithic studies have a long tradition in South Africa, starting from the 1900's. But the last two decades represent a pivotal change characterized by the large contribution of and exposure to the international community. Most of these recent studies have focused on lithic technologies associated and/or depicting "early forms of behavioral modernity". However, currently academics seem to pay increasing attention to earlier and later periods, with research questions being more inclusive and oriented toward clarifying the long history of South African hunters and gatherers. We are tempted to see this evolution as a new step in South African lithic studies, with new challenges that interrogate the nature and the particulars of the local heritage and traditions. This symposium is a platform from which to present the range of current projects in South Africa but it also presents an opportunity to newly confront our "eyes" to lithic collections that will be showed during the day.

On the Nature of Connections

The relationships between the east African coast and the continental hinterland from the 11th to the 17th century

Friday 16 October 2015

Since the beginning of 2015, IFAS is coordinating a research programme on the Medieval History of Africa (11th–17th centuries) that aims at rethinking the relationship between Africa and the rest of the World prior to systematic European Imperialism (Globafrica, **http://globafrica.hypotheses.org**). To go back to this pre-colonial world integration, the programme will address, in the coming years, four principal questions: 1. epidemics of foreign origin and their impact on the African continent, especially the Black Death; 2. the introduction of non-indigenous plants; 3. commercial links to the Indian Ocean and 4. appropriation processes of the Arabic alphabet. Fundamentally interdisciplinary in nature, the programme also carries an exploratory dimension that aims to foster new sites of research.

One of the privileged fields with which we will engage concerns the relations between the East African coast and the continental hinterland, in particular following the Zambezi axis linking the Zimbabwe plateau to the Mozambican coast. To open this field, we are organising an interdisciplinary round table to address questions common to many different disciplines: rock art, archaeology (prehistory to the Middle Ages), oral history, history based on documentary sources (mainly Arabic and Portuguese evidences), but also the natural sciences (geology, botany and physics). Here are the three questions addressed to the participants: 1/ what can you tell us about the coastal–interior relationship? 2/ How to demonstrate and evaluate a connection more generally speaking? 3/ Where to seek for further research?

PARTNERS

AESOP

The AESOP is a Euro-South African partnership on heritage and past composed by 11 European and 9 South African universities partners. Co-coordinated by the University of Paul Sabatier-Toulouse 3 (France) and the University of Western Cape (South Africa), this multidisciplinary and inter sectorial Erasmus Mundus consortium aims to promote eight thematic fields such as: Engineering, Technology; Geography, Geology; Humanities; Mathematics, Informatics; Medical Sciences; Natural Sciences; Social Sciences; Communication and Information Sciences.

www.aesop-em.eu

Origins Center

Opened by President Thabo Mbeki in 2006, the Origins Centre is a world-class museum dedicated to exploring and celebrating the history of modern humankind, telling the story of the emergence of human beings and humanity in southern Africa.

www.origins.org.za

Evolutionary Studies Institute (ESI), Wits University

The Evolutionary Studies Institute (ESI) was recently established through the amalgamation of the Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontological Research and the Institute for Human Evolution. It is the largest palaeontological/ palaeoanthropological research entity in Africa and one of the largest of its kind in the world.

www.wits.ac.za/academic/research/17918/home.html

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)

The National Institute of Scientific Research is the main public research entity in France. This multidisciplinary organism conducts researches in every scientific, sociological and technologic fields, such as: mathematics, physics, sciences and technologies of information and communication, nuclear physics and high energies, sciences of earth and univers, chemistry, sciences of the living, human and social sciences, environment sciences and engineering sciences.

www.cnrs.fr

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) is a statutory organisation established under the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999, as the national administrative .body responsible for the protection of South Africa's cultural heritage. SAHRA is mandated to coordinate the identification and management of the national estate. The aims are to introduce an integrated system for the identification, assessment and management of the heritage resources and to enable provincial and local authorities to adopt powers to protect and manage them.

www.sahra.org.za

Department of Science and Technology (DST)

In the frame of the Research and Development Strategy launched in 2002 to enhance the South African National System of innovation, the Department of Science and Technology has been created to ensure a greater coordination, integration as well as a better management of all government funded science and technologic institutions.

www.dst.gov.za

Rock Art Research Institute (RARI), Wits University
Created in 1979, the Rock Art Research Institute is dedicated to developing an understanding of rock art by researching indigenous beliefs, rituals, customs and life ways. It is a leading centre for rock art training and offers undergraduate and post-graduate courses in rock art recording, interpretation and management. It is also active in rock art conservation and in the development and management of rock art tourism in South Africa.
www.wits.ac.za/rockart

Institut National de Recherches Archéologiques Préventives (INRAP)
Established in 2002, this institute aims to realize preventive archeological operations, such as diagnosis and excavations, on sites threatened by land settlements. Furthermore, the INRAP ensures the treatment and the diffusion of the information it collects to the scientific community and strives, in the same time, to promote the teaching and the cultural diffusion of archeology to the public.
www.inrap.fr

University of Pretoria (UP)
The University of Pretoria is one of the most important South African universities. Created in 1908, UP is situated in the Gauteng province and welcomes approximately 38 000 students each year.
www.up.ac.za

Agence Nationale de recherche (ANR)
Founded in 2005 by the French government, the principal activity of the ANR consists in financing scientific research projects, public or private. The institution takes also part in the financing of international scientific cooperation project.
www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr

French Institute of South Africa (IFAS)
With a regional mandate over Southern Africa, IFAS-Research develops research programmes over the region and the continent. Most of the fields from humanities and social sciences are concerned: archaeology, history, urban studies, poltical sciences etc. It supports around 80 researchers every year from the most prestigious universities in France, Europe and Southern Africa.
www.ifas.org.za/research

Images:
3D total station
Figurine of golden rhino found in Mapungubwe, University of Pretoria
Rock art detail
Lithic drawing: Michel Grenet (atelier Le Tilleul, France)
Floorplan, palace of Husuni Kubwa, Kilwa Kisiwani, Tanzania

Contact

French Institute of South Africa
comm.research@ifas.org.za | +27 (0)11 403 0458